

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 23, 24, and 26-34 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4-17, and 19-41 are currently pending in the present application. Claim 23 has been canceled by this reply. Claims 1, 17, and 36 are independent claims. Claims 2 and 4-16 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Claims 19-22 and 24-35 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, from claim 17. Claims 37-41 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, from claim 36.

Allowable Subject Matter

Independent claims 1, 17, and 36 have been amended to include allowable subject matter. Specifically, independent claims 1, 17, and 36 have been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 23, which the Examiner has indicated contains allowable subject matter.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 4-17, 19-22, 25, and 35-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,507,862 ("Joy"). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, independent claims 1, 17, and 36 have been amended to include allowable subject matter. Specifically, independent claims 1, 17, and 36 now recite the limitations of original dependent claim 23, which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter (*see* Office Action mailed April 13, 2006, page 2). Thus, amended independent

claims 1, 17, and 36 are now patentable over Joy. Dependent claims 2, 4-16, 19-22, 25, 35, and 37-41 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-17, 19-22, 25, and 35-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 00/68780 ("Joy"). As described above, independent claims 1, 17, and 36 have been amended to include allowable subject matter. Thus, amended independent claims 1, 17, and 36 are now patentable over Joy. Dependent claims 2, 4-16, 19-22, 25, 35, and 37-41 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/049001; P5243).

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Respectfully submitted,

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